

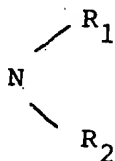
Applicants in the amendment presented herewith have made the instant terminology more precise. It is believed that the Examiner's objections have been overcome.

The Examiner correctly notes that an aryl ring system cannot possess further double bonds. The claims terminology has been changed in order to more clearly recite the fact that the  $R^1-R^2$  ring system is the portion of the molecule which can contain the unsaturation.

It is requested that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

Claims 16-23 have been rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Matsumoto et al.

The instant claims recite a process of alkylating a naphthyridone -3-carboxylic acid or an ester thereof with an amine. The naphthyridone contains an X moiety which is replaced by



Matsumoto et al does not disclose or suggest such a reaction. The cited reference prepares the compounds taught therein using a complicated ten step reaction. If one compares page 9 of the present application with page 10 of Matsumoto it is clear that in the respective processes no identical compounds are used. Copies of these pages are attached hereto. Starting compounds and intermediates are quite different. Matsumoto uses 10 steps to obtain his end products whereas applicants require only 6 steps to prepare

the final product. According to the examples of the reference Matsumoto indeed uses this very complicated process to prepare the compounds. It is clear that the present process could not have been obvious because of the more complicated scheme used by the reference.

Reconsideration of the rejection and allowance of all of the instant claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

SPRUNG HORN KRAMER & WOODS

LH:sm  
Attach.  
600 Third Avenue  
New York, New York 10016  
(212) 661-0520

By Leonard Horn  
Leonard Horn  
Reg. No. 17,200

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SPRUNG HORN KRAMER & WOODS

By Leonard Horn  
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